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CITY & COUNTY OF THE CITY OF EXETER.



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1927,  
VITAL STATISTICS,  
SANITARY WORK, ETC.,**

BY

**P. H. STIRK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Eng.,**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

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EXETER :

BEARNE BROS., PRINTERS, SIDWELL STREET.

1928.



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I have the honour to present to the  
Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen,  
and Councillors of the City of Exeter  
my Annual Report for the Year 1927.

P. H. STIRK.

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The Minister of Health in Circular 269 issued in December, 1921, has given definite instructions as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health. In the Circular it is intimated that he requires a full survey Report at intervals of five years, the intervening Reports to be of a more simple character. The following Report is therefore of the nature of an interim Report, and in its compilation the suggestions of the Minister have been closely followed.

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# CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY OF EXETER.

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## Public Health Committee.

### MAYOR—

Colonel RANSOM PICKARD, C.B., C.M.G.

### CHAIRMAN—

Councillor J. S. S. STEELE-PERKINS.

### DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—

Alderman R. M. CHALLICE.

Alderman J. R. NETHERCOTT  
Alderman P. KELLAND  
Alderman C. J. VLIELAND  
Councillor W. T. BAKER  
Councillor Mrs. F. G. BROWNE  
Councillor G. G. DAWE

Councillor F. J. HANCOCK  
Councillor F. HOULT  
Councillor E. SELWAY  
Councillor Miss E. SPLATT  
Councillor J. PASSMORE

*Town Clerk*—H. LLOYD PARRY, Esq.

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## Maternity and Infant Welfare Committee.

### CHAIRMAN—

Councillor Mrs. F. G. BROWNE.

### DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—

Councillor W. HEALE.

Alderman C. H. HARDING  
Alderman C. J. VLIELAND  
Councillor Miss E. SPLATT  
Councillor F. J. HANCOCK  
Coun. J. S. S. STEELE-PERKINS  
Councillor Mrs. E. W. REED.

*Non-Members of the  
Council :*  
Mrs. ALLEN  
Mrs. DEPREE  
Mrs. MILLER  
Mrs. VLIELAND

# ANNUAL REPORT, 1927.

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## GENERAL STATISTICS.

1.	Area (acres)	...	...	...	4,702
2.	Population (Civilians)	...	...	...	60,630
	Total (including Military, etc.)	...	...	...	61,220
3.	Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	14,442
4.	Number of Families or Separate Occupiers				
	(1921 Census)	...	...	...	14,843
5.	Rateable Value	...	...	...	£472,042
6.	Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£1,774

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## VITAL STATISTICS.

### BIRTH RATE.

The population for the Birth Rate is 61,220.

The total number of births registered in Exeter in the year 1927 was 1083, divided as follows :—569 males and 514 females.

Of this number, 51 male and 41 female births were certified as illegitimate, being 8·4 per cent. of the total births. To the 1083 births must be added 17 male and 9 female (3 of whom were illegitimate) and deducted 76 male and 83 female (57 of whom were illegitimate) transferable births, giving a net number of 950 (510 males and 440 females).

The birth rate is the number of births per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for 1927 was, therefore, 15·5, being ·99 below that of last year, 1·2 below that of England and Wales, and 1·6 below that of the 107 Great Towns in which Exeter is classed.

The following table gives the birth rate and percentage of illegitimate births to total births for the past 10 years :—

Year.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
England and Wales ...	17·7	18·5	25·4	22·4	20·6	19·7	18·8	18·3	17·8	16·7
Exeter ...	15·1	14·68	22·46	18·89	17·00	16·94	16·79	16·29	16·49	15·5
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to total births	...	13·74	8·6	8·3	7·05	9·03	9·1	7·9	8·6	8·4

### DEATH RATE.

The population for Death Rate is 60,630.

The total number of deaths registered as occurring during the year 1927 was 752, divided as follows: 361 males and 391 females.

The death rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 of the population. The crude death rate for 1927 was 12·4 and the corrected death rate 10·1.

### CORRECTED DEATH RATE.

In order that the death rate of various places may be fairly compared, it is essential to correct the death rate for age and sex distribution. To correct a death rate for age and sex distribution, the Registrar General has published tables giving factors by which the death rate has to be multiplied. The factor for Exeter is '817, and the corrected death rate is, therefore, 10·1. Below is a table giving the corrected death rate for the past 10 years :—

Year.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
England and Wales ...	17·7	18·5	12·4	12·1	12·9	11·6	12·2	12·2	11·6	12·3
Exeter ...	15·9	12·28	10·91	11·66	13·22	11·02	11·8	11·29	10·71	10·1





(CONTINUED).

[illegible]

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**

The Infantile Mortality Rate is the number of deaths under one year per 1,000 births. There were 57 deaths under one year, and this gives an infant mortality rate for the year 1927 of 60·0 (legitimate 60·3, illegitimate 52·6), as compared with 68·5 for the previous year.

The infantile mortality rates for the year 1927 were as follows :—

England and Wales ...	...	...	69
107 Great Towns, including London (census populations exceeding 50,000)		...	71
155 Smaller Towns (census populations 20,000 —50,000)	...	...	68
London ...	...	...	59
Exeter ...	...	...	60

The following table shows the infantile mortality rate in Exeter for the past ten years :—

Year.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
England and Wales ...	97	89	80	83	77	69	75	75	70	69
Exeter ...	61·10	78·62	67·14	96·07	66·99	60·72	59·405	74·1	68·5	60·0

## DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Cause.	Under 1 month	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total.
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Pneumonia ...	1	1	2	1	4	9
Diarrhœa, etc. ...	...	4	1	...	1	6
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Pre- mature Birth ...	23	4	1	...	...	28
Infantile Convulsions ...	1	...	...	3	1	5
Accidental Death ...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases ...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Ill-defined Causes ...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Total ...	28	10	8	4	7	57

Excluding those who died during the first month, the deaths of whom were almost entirely due to prematurity, if evidence were needed to emphasize the value of natural feeding over artificial feeding, it is furnished by an analysis of these deaths. Only three of the 29 deaths occurred amongst babies who were breast fed, and it is noteworthy that of the total of 57 deaths, only three occurred in infants who regularly attended the Infant Welfare Centres.



### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Five maternal mortality deaths occurred in connection with parturition and pregnancy, two being due to puerperal sepsis and three to other causes.

Of the two cases notified as puerperal fever, in one case the midwife and doctor were called in as an emergency, the patient having aborted before the doctor and midwife were called in, and nothing having been saved for the inspection of the doctor or midwife. The death was certified by the Coroner after *post mortem* as due to "Natural Causes." In the other case the pregnancy had existed for only five months. The patient was attended by a midwife and doctor in her own home and removed to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, and died the day of admission, the death being certified, after *post mortem*, as due to "Retained products of abortion," and the actual cause of death "Cerebral Embolism."

Of the three other cases, one was apparently due to infection of the kidneys, which existed before labour, and the other two deaths were due to hæmorrhage.

It has been the practice, since these conditions connected with pregnancy have been notifiable, to make each one the subject of a special investigation, as now suggested by the Ministry of Health. By instituting a uniform inquiry into all these deaths throughout the country, it is hoped that we may obtain something helpful in the way of avoiding them.

### DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	4
„ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	...	...	...	8
„ „ Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2
„ „ Diphtheria	...	...	...	—
„ „ Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—
„ „ Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1
„ „ Tuberculosis	...	...	...	65
„ „ Pneumonia	...	...	...	37
„ „ Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	2



## MEASLES.

In the absence of Notification, only a limited number of these cases occurring come to my knowledge, mainly through co-operation with the Head Teachers of the Schools. 453 cases were notified, mostly occurring in the months of March, April, and May. There were four deaths from this disease.

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## DIARRHŒA.

There were 14 deaths from this disease, eight of which were in children under two years of age. Posters pointing out precautions to be taken, safeguarding of milk, etc., in the homes, were exhibited in various parts of the City, and distributed by means of handbills.

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## HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED, BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Name.	Address.	Whether supported Wholly or Partly by the Council.	Accommodation.
Tuberculosis Sanatorium	Pinhoe* ...	Wholly ...	7 Male and 7 Female Beds
Tuberculosis Hospital ...	Whipton*...	Wholly ...	7 Male and 7 Female Beds
Honeylands Tuberculosis Children's Hospital ...	Whipton ...	Wholly ...	10 Male and 10 Female Beds
Pensions Ministry and Red Cross Pavilion for Tuberculosis ...	Whipton*	Wholly ...	12 Male Beds
Maternity Home ...	Southernhay West ...	Partly ...	Council contribute £50 per annum, and reserve 2 Beds for the reception of necessitous and complicated cases, and cases in which the home surroundings are unsuitable. For these cases the Council pay £2 12s. 6d. per week each.
Isolation Hospital ...	Whipton*	Wholly ...	24 Beds for Scarlet Fever ; 14 Beds for Diphtheria ; 10 Beds for Enteric Fever and used at present for 14 Tubercular cases ; 20 Beds interchangeable as required ; 8 Beds for observation cases. By Agreement with 22 Local Authorities and other Bodies in the County of Devon, their cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital of the City, which is capable of considerable extension in times of necessity.
Smallpox Hospital ...	Ide* ...	Wholly ...	—

## HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT AND IN THE AREA.

Name.	Address.	Accommodation.
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital ...	Southernhay ...	Total beds 225. Children beds 40.
West of England Eye Infirmary ...	Magdalen Street ...	64 Beds including Cots
Poor Law Infirmary ...	Heavitree Road, ...	100 Beds
Poor Law Infirmary ...	St. Thomas ...	84 Beds
The Princess Elizabeth Devonian Orthopædic Hos.	Buckerell Bore ...	40 Beds

\* Situated in the area of the R.D.C. of St. Thomas.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED  
MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND  
HOMELESS CHILDREN.

Name.	Address.	Accommodation.
St. Olaves Maternity Home ... ..	33 Bartholomew Street, East ...	17 Beds for unmarried mothers
St. Mary's Home ...	25 Mary Arches Street	6 Beds for female V.D.
St. Elizabeth's Home (Home of Refuge)	36 Bartholomew Street, West ...	6 Beds for girls in temporary difficulties, or from Police Court
D. Barnardo's Home for Girls ...	Clifton Hill ...	55 Beds
St. Lawrence's Home for Waifs and Strays... ..	Polsloe Road ...	30 Beds

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases :—

One Motor Ambulance provided by the Council.

One Horse Ambulance for tubercular cases.

(b) For non-infectious and accidental cases :—

3 Motor Ambulances provided by St. John Ambulance Association. Council contributes £100 per annum.



## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name.	Address.	When Held.	Arrangements for Medical Supervision.	Whether provided by the Council or not.
Central Infant Welfare Centre	51 Magdalen Street	Weekly on Tuesdays at 2.30	Dr. R. Harris	Yes
Western Infant Welfare Centre	Exe Street School	Weekly on Thursdays at 2.30	Dr. C. Mathew Asst. M.O.H.	Yes
Eastern Infant Welfare Centre	Church Street Heavitree	Fortnightly on Wednesdays at 2.30	Dr. P. H. Stirk M.O.H.	Yes
Eastern Infant Welfare Centre	St. Sidwell's Institute, Summerland Crescent	Fortnightly on Wednesdays at 2.30	Do.	Yes
Impetigo School Clinic	5 West Southernhay	Daily at 4.30	S.M.O.	Yes
Ringworm School Clinic	Do.	Do.	Do.	Yes
Scabies School Clinic	Baths & Wash-houses, King St.	When required	Do.	Yes
Diseases of Ears and Eyes School Clinic	5 West Southernhay	Daily at 9.30 a.m.	Do.	Yes
Treatment Centre for Tonsils & Adenoids Operations	Poor Law Infirmary, Heavitree Road	When required	Private Practitioner.	By agreement with the Board of Guardians.
Treatment Centre for Errors of Refraction (including Squint) and other defects or disease of the eyes, not treated at Daily Clinic, 5W.Southernhay	Eye Infirmary Magdalen St.	Mondays and Tuesdays at 10 a.m.	Eye Infirmary Staff	By agreement with the Eye Infirmary Committee
Tuberculosis Dispensary	4 West Southernhay	Daily from 9 to 5.30 (except Saturdays 9 to 12.30)	Dr. J. H. Acheson, Asst. T.O.	Yes
Venereal Disease Clinic	Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	MEN. Mondays, 3 to 5 Fridays, 6 to 8	Dr. P. D. Warburton	Yes jointly with the Devon County Council
		WOMEN. Fridays, 3 to 5		
Cleansing Station	Baths & Wash-houses, King St.	When required	M.O.H.	Yes
Orthopædic Clinic	Exeter Dispensary, Queen Street	Twice a month	Orthopædic Surgeon	In conjunction with Devon County Council

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer,  
Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Medical Officer to the Mental  
Deficiency Committee, and Medical Superintendent of the  
Isolation Hospital and of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium and  
Honeyland's Children's Hospital—*

P. H. STIRK,\* M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Eng.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School  
Medical Officer—*

C. MATHEW,\* L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant  
Tuberculosis Officer—*

J. H. ACHESON,\* M.B., Ed. and C.M., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer to the Central Infant Welfare Centre—*

R. HARRIS,\*† M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Dental Surgeon—*

G. V. SMALLWOOD,\*† L.D.S., Eng.

*Matron of Isolation Hospital—*

MISS R. E. A. HUTTY.\*

*Matron of Tuberculosis Sanatorium—*

MISS A. AVERY.\*

*Matron of Tuberculosis Children's Hospital—*

MISS A. M. PHILLIPS.\*

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Food  
and Drugs Acts—*

ARTHUR E. BONHAM,\* Médaille d'Honneur en Vermeil, F.S.I.A.  
Cert., London Sanitary Inspectors' Exam. Board.  
Cert., Royal Sanitary Institute.  
Cert., Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Foods, etc.



*Inspectors—*

- R. B. PEARSE, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. Inst.,  
Cert. R. San. Inst., Meat and Foods.
- A. E. TROUNSON, Cert. R. San. Inst.,  
Cert. R. San. Inst., Meat and Foods.
- C. H. WATTS, Cert. R. San. Inst.
- T. COATES, Cert. R. San. Inst.,  
Cert. R. San. Inst., Meat and Foods.

*Clerks—*

- E. S. HOWELLS\* (*Chief Clerk*).
- H. TUCKER\* (*Tuberculosis Clerk*)
- MISS G. ROOKE (*Shorthand Typist*).
- W. G. LOTT (*Clerk*).
- H. VOWDEN (*Junior Clerk*).

*Health Visitors—*

- MISS C. A. KNUCKEY,\* C.M.B. and Cert. R. San. Inst.,  
for Health Visitors.
- MISS B. M. KNUCKEY,\* C.M.B. and Cert. R. San. Inst.  
for Health Visitors.
- MISS S. L. DAWKINS,\* General Training and C.M.B.  
(To 30-4-27).
- MISS M. WALTERS,\* General Training and C.M.B.
- MISS F. E. WARD,\* General Training and C.M.B.
- MISS E. M. HOYLES,\* General Training, C.M.B., Cert. R.  
San. Inst. for Health Visitors, issued by Ministry of  
Health. (From 9-5-27).

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\* Denotes salary contributions by Exchequer Grants.

† Denotes part time officers.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

## (a) GENERAL.

The Exeter and District Nursing Association provides Nurses who visit patients daily for nursing, dressings, etc., for which payment is required according to the means of the patient.

Trained nurses from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and private Institutions.

## (b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital provides nurses for fever cases, as also do the private Institutions.

No home nursing arrangements are made, or partially provided, by the Local Authority, but in the event of Measles becoming epidemic, the Medical Officer of Health is authorised to obtain Nurses should occasion arise, and this arrangement also holds good should a case of Pneumonia arise in a family whose circumstances are such as would not enable them to provide proper nursing.

---

MIDWIVES.

34 Midwives notified their intention of practising in the City ; of these, 20 belonged either to the Exeter and District Nursing Association or St. Olave's Home ; 33 were trained Midwives and certified by the Central Midwives' Board, and 1 was registered by reason of being in practice prior to the Act coming into force.

The conduct and work of the Midwives has been good. The rules of the Central Midwives Board have been observed, and in only two or three instances has the attention of Midwives had to be drawn to minor faults in connection therewith.

No Midwives are employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

### LABORATORY WORK.

In suspected cases of Diphtheria no charge is made. All V.D. work done without charge. The examination of swabs from Diphtheria contacts is only undertaken free if it is done after consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and the work is undertaken as a Public Health measure.

Pathological and Bacteriological work (V.D. only) is carried out for the Local Authority at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital by Dr. Solly; and Bacteriology (other than sputa examinations) is done partly by the City Analyst and partly by the Lister Institute. Sputa examinations are made by the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer.

#### EXAMINATIONS AT V.D. DEPARTMENT.

For detection of Spirochetes	...	...	5
For detection of Gonococci	...	...	108
For Wasserman re-action	...	...	180

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

##### For Tuberculosis—

Sputum—Positive	...	...	66
Negative	...	...	215
		Total	<u>281</u>

##### For Enteric Fever—

<i>Blood</i> —Positive	...	...	...	8
Negative	...	...	...	7
Sample insufficient	...	...	...	5
		Total		<u>20</u>

*Faeces and Urine*—Negative ... .. 1

Delayed in post and unfit  
for examination ... .. 1

Total 2

For Cerebro-spinal Fever—

Negative	...	...	...	Nil
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----

For Diphtheria. for primary investigation—

Positive	...	...	...	41
----------	-----	-----	-----	----

Negative	...	...	...	460
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Total	501
-------	-----

For Diphtheria, investigation before discharge from  
isolation of cases treated at home—

Positive	...	...	...	—
----------	-----	-----	-----	---

Negative	...	...	...	5
----------	-----	-----	-----	---

Total	5
-------	---

For Diphtheria, investigation before discharge from  
Hospital—

Positive	...	...	...	84
----------	-----	-----	-----	----

Negative	...	...	...	145
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Total	229
-------	-----

Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Anti-Meningococcic Serum are issued from the Public Health Department, free in necessitous cases, Doctors being charged in others.

#### LOCAL ACTS, ORDERS, ETC.

Adopted—

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

P.H.A. (Amend.) Act, 1890.

Museum and Gymnasium Act, 1891.

Cleansing of Persons Act, 1897.

Public Library Acts.

Baths and Washhouses Acts.

P.H.A. (Amend.) Act, 1907 (all adopted 1909).

P.H.A. 1925, Part II. (except Sections 20 and 34), and  
Parts III., IV. and V.



### BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Houses Let in Lodgings, 1924.

Public Abattoir, 1913 and 1925.

Private Slaughterhouses, 1913.

Removal of Snow and Keeping of Animals, 1892.

Common Lodging Houses, 1902.

Prohibiting the Admission into the Cattle Market of  
Animals Unfit for Food, 1911.

Building Bye-laws, 1926.

Offensive Trades, 1926.

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### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

#### WATER.

The City water supply continues to be of a satisfactory character. The high pressure mechanical filters, combined with chlorination, continue to give satisfactory results, no case of illness having been traced to the water supply during the year.

---

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The experimental tank at Wonford in the treatment of sewage by the activated sludge method has continued in operation, and the results appear to place the success of this means of sewage treatment beyond all reasonable doubt, and it is especially pleasing to record that real progress in the preparation of plans, etc., for treatment on similar lines to deal with the whole of the sewage of the City has been made.



## SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

### STATEMENT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

#### NOTICES.

Number served—Informal	...	...	341
Statutory	...	...	59
Number uncomplied with at end of Year		...	20

#### HOUSES AND PREMISES.

Number Inspected upon Complaint	...	...	503
Number of Defective Yards Paved	...	...	44
Number of Defective Eaves and Gutters Rectified	...	...	54
Number of Walls, Floors and Ceilings Repaired	...	...	52
Number of Roofs Repaired	...	...	36
Number of Rooms Cleansed and Limewashed	...	...	23
Number of Food Cupboards Provided	...	...	2
Number of Lavatory Basins Provided	...	...	1
Number of New Windows Provided	...	...	2
Number of New Urinals Provided	...	...	1

#### BATHS, LAVATORIES AND SINKS.

Number of Glazed Sanitary Sinks Provided	...	...	28
Number of Waste Pipes Trapped	...	...	40

#### WORK IN PROGRESS.

Number of Visits made thereto	...	...	3841
-------------------------------	-----	-----	------

#### OVERCROWDING.

Number of Cases Abated	...	...	4
------------------------	-----	-----	---

#### DRAINS.

Number of Smoke Tests Made	...	...	100
Number of Water Tests Made	...	...	146
Number Laid or Re-laid or Repaired	...	...	98
Number Cleansed, Trapped and Ventilated	...	...	152

## DRAINS (continued).

Number of Defective Bell and D Traps Replaced by Stoneware Gullies	...	...	9
Number of Rainwater Pipes Disconnected	...	...	3

## COURTS AND PASSAGES.

Number of Visits made thereto	...	...	331
Number Re-paved	...	...	3
Number Limewashed	...	...	18

## WATER CLOSETS.

Number of Additional W.C.'s Provided or Re-constructed	...	...	25
Number Repaired, Ventilated, etc.	...	...	65
Number of Soil Pipes Repaired, Ventilated or Re-constructed	...	...	30
Number of Flushing Apparatus Improved	...	...	41
Number Limewashed	...	...	48

## DUST RECEPTACLES (PORTABLE).

Number of Visits	...	...	61
Number of New Dust Receptacles Provided	...	...	72

## WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Wells Closed as polluted	...	...	1
------------------------------------	-----	-----	---

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number of Visits to Public Abattoir	...	...	397
Number of Visits made to Private Slaughter Houses	...	...	622
Number of Contraventions Found and Remedied	...	...	10

## BAKEHOUSES.

Number Inspected	...	...	35
Number of Contraventions Found and Remedied	...	...	16

## OUTWORKERS.

Number of Premises	...	...	122
--------------------	-----	-----	-----

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Inspections Made	...	...	487
Number of Contraventions of Acts, Orders and Bye-laws dealt with	...	...	57

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Inspections Made	...	...	190
Number of Contraventions found and remedied	...	...	6

## FOOD.

Number of Preparation and Storage Premises Visited	...	...	116
Number of Defects Discovered and Remedied	...	...	12

## ANIMALS KEPT SO AS TO BE A NUISANCE.

Number of Cases Abated	...	...	10
------------------------	-----	-----	----

## ACCUMULATION OF OFFENSIVE REFUSE.

Number of Removals	...	...	46
Number of Dung-Pits Provided or Re-modelled	...	...	5

## MEETINGS OF OWNERS.

Number of Interviews and Appointments Kept	...	...	277
--	-----	-----	-----

## MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

Enquiries and Visits Made	...	...	111
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----

## RATS AND PESTS.

Enquiries and Visits	...	...	49
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**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.****1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.**

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries)	120	7	—
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	177	1	—
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	297	8	—

**2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—*				
Want of cleanliness ...	23	23	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	9	9	1	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient ...	8	8		
Unsuitable or defective ...	14	14		
Not separate for sexes ...	2	2		
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...				
Other offences ...				
Excluding offences relating to (outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Abstracts not affixed ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	58	58	1	—

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.



## OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES

## SECTION 108.

NATURE OF WORK	Instan- ces.	Notices served.	Prose- cutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c. ...	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing ...			
Household linen ...			
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...			
Curtains and furniture hangings ...			
Furniture and Upholstery ...			
Electro-plate ...			
File making ...			
Brass and brass articles ...			
Fur pulling ...			
Cables and chains ...			
Anchors and grapnels ...			
Cart gear ...			
Locks, latches and keys ...			
Umbrellas, &c. ...			
Artificial flowers ...			
Nets, other than wire nets ...			
Tents ...			
Sacks ...			
Racquet and tennis balls ...			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ...			
Brush making ...			
Pea picking ...			
Feather sorting ...			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ...			
Stuffed toys ...			
Basket making ...			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas			
stockings, etc. ...			
Textile weaving ...			
Total ...	—	—	—



## HOUSING ACTS.

Houses inspected—(a) under Regulations	...	...	151
(b) on Complaint	...	...	222
Tenements cleansed, whitewashed, etc.	...	...	198
Houses closed	...	...	9
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	171
Walls, ceilings, etc., repaired	...	...	716
Roofs repaired or reconstructed	...	...	92
Stairs and doors repaired	...	...	76
Windows provided to rooms	...	...	33
Windows of rooms made to open	...	...	21
Windows of rooms repaired, etc., and sash cords renewed			186
Yards repaved or repaired	...	...	42
Drains reconstructed	...	...	33
Drains repaired	...	...	27
Defective or insufficient eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	...		96
Bell or D traps replaced with stoneware gullies		...	4
Scullery troughs and baths provided	...	...	11
Waste pipes trapped	...	...	16
Water closets provided	...	...	1
Water closets repaired, etc.	...	...	39
Water closets reconstructed	...	...	10
Defective water closet pans replaced with pans of wash-down pattern and flush improved	...	...	28
Flushing of water closets improved	...	...	12
Water closets provided with a window	...	...	2
Water closets limewashed	...	...	87
Coppers, stoves and grates repaired	...	...	93
Water tap provided on pipe direct from main	...	...	5
Baths provided	...	...	2
W.C. soil and vent pipes reconstructed	...	...	5
Smoke tests	...	...	48
Water tests	...	...	59
Food cupboards provided	...	...	1
Houses subject to Closing Orders rendered fit for habitation	...	...	2

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A complaint of annoyance from smoke from a factory chimney was investigated and observations made.

Statutory Notice to abate a nuisance was served, upon which the owner undertook to use smokeless fuel.

## HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

These registered premises have, on the whole, been kept as far as is possible in reasonable condition, but there are many that are in such an advanced state of decay and so badly situated that they should be closed and demolished.

The problem of re-housing the very poor tenants that would be displaced thereby has not yet been solved.

This aspect of the housing of the working classes should receive the earliest consideration of the City Council.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These trades, other than the fish friers and rag and bone dealers, are all situated very near each other, close to the Exe Bridge, and comprise :—

Tanner	...	...	...	1
Fat Boiler, Soap Maker, and Artificial Manure Works	...	...	...	1
Bone and Fat Boiler	...	...	...	1
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	1
Fish Friers	...	...	...	31
Rag and Bone Dealers (excluding collectors)				6

From time to time complaints were received of offensive smells in the immediate neighbourhood, and under the new Bye-laws the Gutscraper Company were proceeded against and fined 10/- on each of five counts for contraventions.

Much attention was given to another trade that deals with fish offal for conversion into artificial manure. Certain new

machinery was installed for dealing with this very offensive class of offal, but it failed to do what was claimed for it, and up to the end of the year had not been properly re-fitted.

A fish frier, who established a new business without first obtaining the consent of the City Council, was prosecuted. The case, taken as a warning, was dismissed with costs.

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## SCHOOLS.

The sanitation of the Elementary Schools was maintained in good condition throughout the year.

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## HOUSING.

### 1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

There is still a shortage of houses for the middle and working classes, as evidenced by the large number of applications now lying in the Town Clerk's Office. During the last seven years the number of houses built in the City by Municipal and private enterprise was 1420.

This number, considerable as it is, under all the circumstances, has not eased the position of the very poor applicants, who can only afford to pay a small weekly rental, and who prefer to live near to their work.

### 2. OVERCROWDING.

As cases of gross overcrowding arise they are dealt with, as far as possible, by re-arranging the sleeping accommodation, but owing to the continued shortage of houses it is not considered practicable to enforce the abatement of overcrowding nuisances by application to the Justices, except in extreme cases.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1927.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) 556

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :

(i) By the Local Authority ... 297

(ii) By other bodies or persons ... 168

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 876

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 151

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 52

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 824

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 335

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 38

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... 18

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 2



- |  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 503 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—          |     |     |     |     |     |
| (a) By owners  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  |     |     |     |     | —   |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- |  |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders   | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made   | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit       | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made  | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders   | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| (6) Premises demolished after making of Closing Order but without service of Demolition Order, Closing Order withdrawn               | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| (7) Premises voluntarily closed by Owner in consequence of informal action, no statutory notice being served or representations made | ... | ... | ... | 4  |

Of these were—

Demolished	...	...	3
Rendered fit for habitation	...	...	—
Awaiting demolition	...	...	1

## UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Conditions in the unhealthy areas, as reported in 1919, remain as then, save that the City Council is engaged on the preparation of a Reconstruction Scheme for dealing with No. 4 Area, under Part 2 of the Housing Act, 1925. While it has not been found possible to start clearing these areas, it should be noted that they are not neglected. They are regularly inspected, and a great deal of repair work, under informal notice, is carried out by the owners.

## BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

New Bye-Laws relating to Houses Let in Lodgings have already been commented upon, and I am of opinion that there is no need at present for any alterations.

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## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply of the City continues to be good and ample.

At the end of the year 1927 there were on the Registers :—

Cowkeepers	...	...	41
Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	...		113
Retail Purveyors of Milk	...		172

All are regularly inspected, and it was found necessary, in a few instances, to serve notices requiring the cleansing of cattle and cowsheds. Apart from this, all were well conducted.

One milk seller was prosecuted for keeping milk in a place where it was liable to become contaminated, and also for using unregistered premises. He was convicted of both offences and fined £1 in each case. Two men were prosecuted for not properly covering a vessel containing milk and for carrying on the trade of dairymen without being registered. They were convicted and fined 5/- in each case.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, eight retailers, whose premises and methods were most unsatisfactory, were struck off the Register.

One application for registration was refused by the Public Health Committee.

33 samples of milk were taken under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and sent to the Clinical Research Association for examination, and all were reported upon as free from tubercle bacilli, except three which were broken in transit.

In addition to the inspection by the Sanitary Inspectors, the Veterinary Inspector visits the cowsheds twice annually and examines the cattle. During the year one case was dealt with under the Tuberculosis (in Cattle) Order, and upon *post mortem* was found to be affected with advanced tuberculosis.

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#### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

The number of samples of Certified Milk obtained under the above Order was 12, particulars of which are here set out :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Count in <math>\frac{1}{10}</math> C.C.</i>	<i>Presence of B. Coli.</i>
*14.2.27	Uncountable	Not found
14.4.27	116	„
*17.5.27	Uncountable	„
28.6.27	105	„
13.7.27	166	„
30.7.27	252	„
10.8.27	122	„
24.8.27	265	„
15.9.27	113	„
3.10.27	3200	„
18.10.27	82	„
23.11.27	207	„

\*Sample delayed in transit to Laboratory.

Of Grade "A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Count in <math>\frac{1}{10}</math> C.C.</i>	<i>Presence of B. Coli.</i>
*22.2.27	Uncountable	Not found
*17.5.27	„	Found
15.12.27	Organisms growing at 37°C., 11,000 per c.c.	„

\*Sample delayed in transit to Laboratory.

## PUBLIC ABATTOIRS AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat inspection throughout the City has been carried on as heretofore, and it is pleasing to report that the City's meat supply is, generally speaking, of excellent quality; indeed, there is no market for meat of the poorest quality, and any of this class that is slaughtered and passed as fit for food is sent away by the owner to other markets.

The Meat Regulations, 1924, are well administered and in the main are loyally carried out by the traders. No application was received during the year for the official stamping of meat.

Records show that at the Public Abattoirs the killings were larger than the previous year, and it is now imperative that the lairage accommodation be extended, as during the last two winters, cattle, surplus to the number that can be accommodated at the abattoirs, have had to be laired at the cattle market each week-end, where the conditions, although hygienic, are not suitable for the proper resting of animals awaiting slaughter.

The following tables show the number of cattle dealt with, and give particulars of the diseased conditions found.



ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND THE FEES EARNED DURING

THE FINANCIAL YEAR, 1-4-27 to 31-3-28.

ANIMALS.	Number slaughtered.	Fees earned for slaughter.	Lairage No. of days.	Fees earned for lairage.	Storage. No. of days.	Fees earned for storage.	Total fees earned.
Cattle	5431	£ 543 2 0	3307	£ 55 2 4	737	£ 9 4 3	£ 607 8 7
Calves	4558	151 18 8	—	—	100	16 8	152 15 4
Sheep	10627	177 2 4	545	2 5 5	1	1	179 7 10
Pigs @ 1/-	5378	268 18 0	{ 2 }	4	24	4 0	272 14 10
„ @ 2/6	29	3 12 6		—	—	—	1 0
Goats	3	1 0	—	—	—	—	—
Total	26026	1144 14 6	3854	57 8 1	962	10 5 0	1212 7 7

Amount received from the sale of Cartridges, £44 19s. 0d.    Amount received from the sale of blood, £65 16s. 0d.

TABLE OF CHARGES.

Slaughtering tolls, including lairage for two days.	Lairage tolls per day, after expiration of second day.	Storage tolls per day, after expiration of second day.
For every Bull, Bullock, Cow or Heifer ...	4d.	3d.
For every Calf ...	2d.	2d.
For every Pig ...	2d.	2d.
For every Sow or Boar over 14 score ...	2d.	2d.
For every Sheep or Lamb ...	1d.	1d.

The following is a summary of Meat and Food Inspections and Condemnations for the year :—

No. of Visits made to Slaughter Houses	...	397
No. of Seizures and Surrenders of Diseased Meat—		
(a) At the Abattoir	... ..	1332
(b) At Private Slaughter Houses, Shops, etc.		126
Magisterial Orders obtained	...	5

CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.

1927.

WHOLE CARCASSES SEIZED OR SURRENDERED ON

ACCOUNT OF GENERALIZED TUBERCULOSIS.

Description.	Number of Animals.	WEIGHTS.											
		CARCASSES.				ORGANS & OFFAL.				TOTALS.			
		T	C	Q	Lbs.	T	C	Q	Lbs.	T	C	Q	Lbs.
Cows	34	7	19	3	11	2	16	2	26	10	16	2	9
Heifers	10	2	3	3	8		15	0	20	2	19	0	0
Steers	3		17	2	22		5	1	2	1	2	3	24
Calves	8		8	2	11		2	0	13		10	2	24
Pigs	21	1	4	3	5		3	3	8	1	8	2	13
Totals	76	12	14	3	1	4	3	0	13	16	17	3	14

PARTS OF CARCASSES, OFFAL, ETC., SEIZED OR SUR-

RENDERED ON ACCOUNT OF LOCALIZED TUBERCULOSIS.

Description.	Number of Animals.	WEIGHTS.											
		MEAT.				ORGANS & OFFAL.				TOTALS.			
		T	C	Q	Lbs.	T	C	Q	Lbs.	T	C	Q	Lbs.
Bovines	*191		19	1	20	3	10	2	14	4	10	0	6
Calves	Nil												
Pigs	52		5	3	20		2	3	27		8	3	19
Totals	243	1	5	1	12	3	13	2	13	4	18	3	25

\*Included here 61 Bullocks' heads.







WEIGHT OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS SEIZED OR SURRENDERED.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs	Lbs.
Whole carcases including offals on account of Generalised Tuberculosis	16	17	3	14
Parts of carcases and offals, etc., on account of Localised Tuberculosis ...	4	18	3	25
Whole carcases including offals on account of diseases or conditions other than Tuberculosis ...	4	5	0	7
Parts of carcases and offals, etc., on account of Local affections ...	6	17	2	10
Imported Meat ...	1	7	3	17
Other Foods ...	3	3	2	14
Total weight of Meat and other Foods seized or surrendered ...	37	11	0	3

PARTS OF CARCASES, OFFAL, ETC., SEIZED OR SURRENDERED ON ACCOUNT OF MINOR DISEASES AND CONDITIONS (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), SUCH AS RHEUMATISM, PLEURISY, PARASITES, ETC.

	Weight.											
	Meat.				Offal and Organs.				Total.			
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.
Beef ...		6	1	18	* 4	16	1	23	5	2	3	13
Mutton and Lamb		4	1	10		17	1	5	1	1	2	15
Pork ...		1	1	7		8	3	10		10	0	17
Veal ...			2	8		2	1	13		2	3	21
Total ...		12	2	15	6	4	3	23	6	17	2	10

\*Includes 2 Bullocks' heads and 8 Calves' heads.

PARTICULARS OF IMPORTED MEAT SEIZED OR SURRENDERED, INCLUDING ORGANS, OFFAL, ETC.

Description.	Weight.			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs..
Beef ... ..	1	7	1	17
Mutton and Lamb ...			2	0
Total ... ..	1	7	3	17

PARTICULARS OF OTHER FOODS SEIZED OR SURRENDERED.

Particulars.	Weight.			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
11 Tins Preserved Fruit ... ..				15½
6 Tins of Beef ... ..			1	8
1 Rabbit ... ..				2
1 Tin Preserved Peas ... ..				1½
2 Tins of Preserved Tomatoes ...				3
6 Tins of Condensed Milk ... ..				8
Bacon ... ..		4	1	21
Salt Meat ... ..		2	2	14
7½ Gallons Milk ... ..			2	19
Chocolate Biscuits ... ..				½
Butter ... ..				½
360 Eggs ... ..			1	11
FISH—				
13 Boxes Bloaters ... ..		1	2	14
13 Boxes Cured Fish ... ..		1	2	19
Dried Salted Cod Fish ... ..	2	9	0	0
12 Tins Prawns ... ..			3	12
1 Tin Herrings ... ..				1
2 Barrels Dried Caplin ... ..		1	3	4
Totals ... ..	3	3	2	14

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD SEIZED OR  
SURRENDERED, SHOWING WEIGHT MONTHLY.

Month.				Weight.			
				Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
January	...	...	...	3	3	3	7
February	...	...	...	4	7	0	22
March	...	...	...	2	17	0	27
April ...	...	...	...	2	6	2	14
May ...	...	...	...	2	0	2	4
June ...	...	...	...	2	11	2	10
July ...	...	...	...	3	3	3	21
August	...	...	...	4	0	3	19
September	...	...	...	2	15	1	1
October	...	..	...	3	15	2	22
November	...	...	...	3	2	1	4
December	...	...	...	3	5	3	20
Total ...				37	11	0	3

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

A person, not regularly engaged in the meat trade, was prosecuted for exposing for sale the carcase of a sheep that was unwholesome. He was fined £1 and costs.

The following Table shows the number of Private Slaughter-houses in use in the City at the dates mentioned :—

		In 1920.		In January, 1925.		In Decem- ber, 1927.
Registered	...	10	...	10	...	9
Licensed	...	3	...	3	...	3
		<u>13</u>		<u>13</u>		<u>12</u>

These are well conducted, and all conform to the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

In most instances the occupiers have notified fixed days and hours of slaughter, and in the other cases prompt and correct notices are given of slaughter.

## OTHER FOODS.

A tabular statement of Foods, other than Meat, that were condemned during the year will be found at the end of the Tables regarding Meat.

The Bakehouses in the City are regularly inspected, and are generally kept in a satisfactory condition.



## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Article.	Examined.		Adulterated.	
	Formal.	Informal	Formal.	Informal
New Milk ... ..	63	1	*	...
Scald Milk ... ..	4	...	...	...
Butter ... ..	8	47	...	...
Cheese ... ..	...	16	...	...
Potted Paste ... ..	...	24	...	...
Potted Meat ... ..	...	3	...	...
Tinned Prawns ... ..	...	2	...	...
Sausages ... ..	...	36	...	5
Lime Juice Cordial ... ..	1	12	1	1
Baking Powder ... ..	...	11	...	...
	76	152	5	6
Total ... ..	228		11	

Lime Juice.—Cautioned by T.C.

- \*Milk.—1. Vendor explained.  
 2. Withdrawn by Prosecution.  
 3. Dismissed on payment of costs.  
 4. Fined 5/- and Analyst's Fees.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK & CREAM) REGULATIONS,  
1912 and 1917.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

## 1. Milk and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream—

	Number of Samples examined for the presence of a Preservative.	Number in which Pre- servative was reported to be present, and per- centage of Preservative found in each sample.
New Milk ...	64	—
Scald Milk ...	4	—

## 2. Cream sold as Preserved Cream.

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statement on the label as to Preservatives were correct.

(1) Correct statement made	...	Nil
(2) Statements incorrect	...	Nil
(3) Percentages of Preservative found in each sample same as on label	... ..	Nil

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream.

(1) Above 35 per cent.	...	Nil
(2) Below 35 per cent.	...	Nil

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed ... Nil

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with and action taken ... Nil

3. Thickening substances. Any evidence of their addition to cream or to preserved cream ... Nil

4. Other observations, if any ... Nil

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.****ARRANGEMENTS FOR ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.**

The City Council has ample accommodation at their Isolation Hospital, Whipton, for the treatment of Infectious Diseases. Cases are removed thereto in a Motor Ambulance, and the premises from which they are taken are afterwards disinfected, generally by fumigation, and subsequent removal of the bedding, etc., for steam disinfection.

See also Isolation Hospital Report.

**CLEANSING AND DISINFECTING.**

The Cleansing Station used by the School Authorities is available for use under the Cleansing of Persons Act, and also for the treatment of itch, clothing and bedding being dealt with at the Central Dépôt by steam disinfection.

Ordinary disinfection is carried out as follows :—

(a) At Isolation Hospital—all is done by steam except in the case of perishable articles, which are placed in a formalin chamber.

(b) There are similar arrangements at the Central Dépôt. House disinfection is done either with formalin vapour or spraying, and for vermin by sulphur.

**SMALLPOX.**

No case of Smallpox occurred in the area during the period under review. The last year there was any Smallpox in the City was in 1905.

No primary or re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Smallpox Regulations, 1917, all cases being referred to the Public Vaccinators.

Daily returns of lodgers are made by the two common lodging house keepers, shewing the locality that all new arrivals come from. The houses are very frequently visited and new arrivals from an infected area are interrogated whenever possible.

## VACCINATION.

The position with regard to Vaccination is very unsatisfactory. I am indebted to the Vaccination Officers for the following figures :—In Exeter 536 only of the children born were successfully vaccinated, which gives a percentage of 60·01. For the part of the City which is in St. Thomas Union the position is even worse, 48 being vaccinated out of 176, which gives a percentage of 27·2. I view with apprehension the unprotected condition of the population of Exeter, in view of the continued extensive epidemic in certain parts of the country.

## SCARLET FEVER.

During the year, 104 cases were notified, as against 212 cases during 1926. There were two deaths. One case died in 1927 from Heart Disease considered to be due to Scarlet Fever occurring in 1926, six months previously. The other fatal case was nursed at home, death being due to complications and not taking place until six months after contracting Scarlet Fever.

## DIPHTHERIA.

25 cases of Diphtheria were notified, which is the lowest number during any of the last five years, 18 of these cases occurred in one Institution leaving but 7 cases for the City generally. In the case of Institutions we have apparently a reliable proof of prophylactic remedy in the Schick test combined with immunisation ; I suggested that this should be applied in the case of the Institution concerned but the Authorities in charge did not authorize its use. There were no deaths due to this disease.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

Six cases of this disease were notified during the year.

Two proved to be wrongly diagnosed, two were distinctly traceable to infection outside the City and of the remaining two, one was resident on the Sewage Disposal Works which may have been the source of infection and in the other case no cause could be assigned. There were no deaths due to this disease.



**PUERPERAL FEVER.**

Four cases of Puerperal Fever were notified—one was a County case admitted to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital with the disease; the remaining three were doctors' cases and were treated at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Two cases proved fatal and are referred to under the heading "Maternal Mortality."

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**

All cases in women whose temperature, within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage, is 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade) or more and has been sustained during a period of 24 hours or has recurred during that period are notifiable under this head.

14 of these cases were notified during the year and two proved fatal and are referred to under the heading "Maternal Mortality"; five cases were treated at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and one case at the Isolation Hospital.

**PNEUMONIA.**

37 cases were notified, and seven ended fatally. Five cases were treated at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

All cases are visited and inquiries made as to the circumstances and the proper nursing of the Patients.

**ERYSIPELAS.**

20 cases were notified, eight of them being treated at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

**CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.**

No cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever were notified during the year.

**DYSENTERY.**

No cases of Dysentery were notified during the year.

**MALARIA.**

No cases were notified during the year.

**TRENCH FEVER.**

No cases were notified during the year. This disease ceased to be notifiable from 31-12-27.

## ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case of this disease was notified, but the illness was found not to be due to Encephalitis Lethargica but to Tubercular Meningitis.

## ACUTE POLIOMYLITIS.

Two cases notified during the year.

## CHICKEN POX.

318 cases of Chicken Pox were notified during the year.

This disease for the last three years has shown a marked evidence of increase. It has been notifiable in Exeter now for many years; the average number of notifications received during the last twenty years has been 132. In 1911 the number was as low as 38. Fortunately it is not a fatal disease and has few complications but some cases give rise to a good deal of trouble and anxiety in differentiating between it and Small Pox.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In the absence of notification it is impossible to give even an approximate number of cases of these diseases, but it may be said that Mumps, Influenza and Whooping Cough were all below the average.

## CANCER.

Table of deaths from Cancer for the past ten years.

Year.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Deaths ...	80	79	83	72	95	108	91	99	96	85



## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE-PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M*	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	3	2	1	—	—	—	1	1
5	9	9	3	1	—	—	2	—
10	5	9	—	—	—	1	—	—
15	3	3	2	—	—	2	—	1
20	5	10	—	2	4	7	1	2
25	11	6	2	2	3	4	1	—
35	4	8	2	2	3	7	—	—
45	6	4	—	—	8	3	—	1
55	6	3	—	—	7	3	—	—
65 and upwards	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	2
Totals ...	53	56	11	7	26	27	5	7
					65			

The above Table shows the Notifications received during the year, also the deaths. The total number of Notifications received was 133. Six of these were duplicates, and are therefore excluded from the above table, and ten were imported cases.

Included in the Deaths are 7 cases of which no Notification was received prior to the death certificate. In two of these cases the disease was only discovered at *post mortem*; in 2 the medical attendants thought they had already been notified by other doctors; in 2 cases the diagnosis was made very shortly before death; and 1 case was an "inward" transfer.

## NEW REGULATIONS.

Two important Regulations were added by the Ministry to our methods of prevention during 1925; first the compulsory segregation of persons suffering from an advanced stage of the



disease (Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62), and secondly the power to prevent Tuberculous persons engaging in the Milk Trade [Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925]. So far it has not been necessary to take any legal action under either of these Regulations in the City as the action desired has been obtained without legal proceedings.

The following Table shows the number of Notifications received during the last ten years :—

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	Total.
148	158	186	209	144	130	133	124	128	127	1487

The following Table shows the Deaths from Tuberculosis for the last ten years :—

Disease.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	72	43	54	45	59	46	59	58	55	53	544
Other forms of Tuberculosis	21	17	10	12	12	5	14	14	10	12	127
Total ...	93	60	64	57	71	51	73	72	65	65	671

And the following the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the last ten years :—

Year.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Number of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	72	43	54	45	59	46	59	58	55	53
Death Rate per 1000	1·43	·728	·879	·756	·988	·763	·9807	·969	·911	·87

## SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the number of non-pulmonary cases notified during the last ten years :—

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	Total.
22	12	13	40	19	20	16	23	24	18	207

There are, at present, 81 non-pulmonary cases on the Register, classified as follows :—

Bones and Joints	...	...	40
Abdominal	...	...	10
Other Organs	...	...	6
Glands	...	...	25

The 18 new 1927 cases, included in the above, were classified as follows :—

Bones and Joints	...	...	6
Abdominal	...	...	4
Other Organs	...	...	3
Glands	...	...	5

By arrangement with the new Orthopædic Hospital, surgical cases of Tuberculosis occurring in children under the age of 16 years are sent to that Institution and not as hitherto to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

As the Orthopædic Hospital only commenced operations in the last month of the year it is not possible to report as yet upon this new arrangement.

We had altogether at the end of the year 675 cases of notified tubercular disease in the City ; 594 were Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 81 Non-Pulmonary. Of these 675 cases, 471 were attending the Tuberculosis Dispensary, either for observation or treatment, and 56 were in Institutions.

## EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

At the Tuberculosis Dispensary extra nourishment has been granted to various patients, and the total cost of same for the Financial year 1927-8 was £98 19s. 8d.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

The accommodation for the treatment of early cases at the Pinhoe Sanatorium (14 beds) remains the same, as also does that for advanced cases at the Isolation Hospital, where there are two Wards, one (7 male and 7 female beds) for the accommodation of general cases, and the other known as the Red Cross Pavilion (12 beds) for ex-service men in an advanced stage of the disease.

Honeylands Children's Sanatorium, Whipton, was opened for the reception of patients on the 1st July, 1924. The figures for 1927 are appended :—

Remaining under treatment 1/1/27.			Admitted during the Year.			Discharged during the Year.								Remaining under treatment 31/12/27			
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	Males.					Females.			M	F	TOTAL	
						Arrested.	Transferred to County.	Improved.	To L. D. Hospital, Whipton.	At Parents' request.	Arrested.	Improved.	At Parent's request.	Total.			
11	8	19	17	15	32	11	1	1	4	1	11	1	1	31	10	10	20

The children are medically attended by myself ; I visit the Institution twice weekly and at other times when necessary.

The Minimum period that a case is ordinarily admitted for is six months.

Educationally, in the opinion of the Teacher, they also benefit greatly. Most of these children, owing to their physical condition, are more backward than the ordinary child, but thanks to their improved health, and hygienic conditions under which they live, and the more individual attention they are able to receive, they leave the Sanatorium School, in most cases, fit for a higher Standard than that on their admission, improvement in their response and brightness being most marked.



The following Table gives details of patients treated at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Pinhoe :—

Remaining under treatment 1/1/27.			Admitted during the Year.			Discharged during the Year.										Remaining under treatment 31/12/27		
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	Males.					Females.					M	F	TOTAL
						Arrested.	Improved	Same.	To R.D.&E. Hospital.	To Pensions Hospital	Arrested.	Improved.	To R.D.&E. Hospital	Worse.	Total.			
6	5	11	11	17	28	6	1	2	1	1	11	2	1	1	26	6	7	13

Table showing details of the cases treated at the Tuberculosis Hospital, Whipton, which is for advanced cases only, during 1927 :—

Remaining under treatment on 1st January, 1927.			Admitted during the year.			Discharged during the year.			Deaths during the Year.			Remaining under treatment 31st Dec., 1927.		
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL
6	7	13	8	12	20	10	7	17	1	3	4	3	9	12

Table showing details of cases treated at the Red Cross Pavilion, Whipton, which is for ex-soldiers and sailors in the advanced stage of the disease, during the year 1927 :—

Remaining under treatment on 1st January, 1927.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged during the Year.	Deaths during the Year.	Remaining under treatment on 31st Dec., 1927.
11	15	13	6	7



Table showing details of cases treated in other Institutions during 1927 :—

Institution.	Remaining under treatment on 1-1-27.	Admitted during Year.	Discharged during Year.	Died.	Remaining under treatment on 31-12-27
The Princess Elizabeth Devonian Orthopædic Hospital, Buckerell Bore ...	—	1	—	—	1
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital ... (cases for whom the Public Health Com- mittee have accepted financial responsi- bility.)	2	20	18	1	3
Total ...	2	21	18	1	4

## TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The following particulars are given of cases treated at the Dispensary by the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer, and attached is also a Report by that Officer—Dr. J. H. Acheson.

DIAGNOSIS.	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				TOTAL.			
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A.—New Cases examined during the year (excluding contacts:)												
(a) Definitely Tuberculous	22	26	3	10	3	3	1	...	25	29	4	10
(b) Doubtfully Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	3	5
(c) Non-tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	8	9	9
B.—Contacts examined during the year:												
(a) Definitely Tuberculous	1	2	9	5	...	...	...	...	1	2	9	5
(b) Doubtfully Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	7
(c) Non-tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	15	15	20
(c)—Cases written off the Dispensary Register as:												
(a) Cured ... ..	6	6	2	...	2	1	1	1	8	7	3	1
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	27	31	38
D.—Number of Persons on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31st:												
(a) Diagnosis completed	195	125	79	73	10	11	26	8	205	136	105	81
(b) Diagnosis not completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	7

## TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY (continued).

1. Number of persons on Dispensary Register on January 1st, 1927 ... ..	509	9. Number of patients to whom Dental Treatment was given, at or in connection with the Dispensary ... ..	Nil
2. Number of patients transferred from other areas and of "lost sight of" cases returned ... ..	16	10. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners (a) At Homes of Applicants ... .. (b) Otherwise ... ..	79 29
3. Number of patients transferred to other areas and cases "lost sight of" ... ..	15	11. Number of other visits by Tuberculosis Officers to Homes ... ..	1197
4. Died during the year ... ..	40	12. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for Dispensary purposes ... ..	1271
5. Number of observation cases under A(b) and B(b) above in which period of observation exceeded 2 months ... ..	15	13. Number of (a) Specimens of sputum, &c., examined ... .. (b) X-ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work ... ..	281 Nil
6. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts) ... ..	2173	14. Number of Insured Persons on Dispensary Register on the 31st Dec. ... ..	234
7. Number of attendances of non-pulmonary cases at Orthopaedic Outstations for treatment or supervision ... ..	2	15. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on 31st. Dec. ... ..	63
8. Number of attendances, at General Hospitals or other Institutions approved for the purpose, of patients for (a) "Light" treatment ... .. (b) Other special forms of treatment ... ..	258 3	16. Number of reports received during the year in respect of Insured Persons : (a) Form G.P. 17 ... .. (b) Form G.P. 36 ... ..	19 61



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REPORT BY THE ASSISTANT TUBERCULOSIS  
OFFICER—DR. J. H. ACHESON.

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As regards Institutional Treatment during the year, that of the children at Honeylands has continued to be followed by very satisfactory results, and one never finds any difficulty in filling a vacant bed as soon as one occurs there, as there are generally several on the Waiting List. I should indeed welcome very much the possible extension of activities in connection with this Sanatorium. Could not something more be done in the way of giving a larger number of children the advantages which, without doubt, would follow from their having on five days in the week their school work at the Sanatorium—the more so as I understand that at present the accommodation in certain of the schools is overtaxed for want of sufficient room. I should like to see carefully chosen children—selected both on account of their physical state and of the individual home conditions (which in most cases naturally act and re-act on each other) sent to Honeylands for all their School work, remaining until afternoon school has been finished, and being supplied while there with a good dinner. I am confident that in the case of some of these children, owing to the distances which they live from school, their health would benefit materially through their having to go and come home only once each day. Undoubtedly in the greater number of the children who have been under treatment at Honeylands for six months the improvement in their health is maintained, though to a varying degree, after they leave, and I have been pleased to find that the attendances of many of them with their mothers is more regular than they were previously to their having had the treatment.

Gradually, as more of the families are finding better accommodation in the houses which are being built both by the Council and through the other means now operating, one notices the improvement which follows in the health, especially of the children, although there are, I regret to say, too many instances where the increased rents, etc., which have to be paid, can only mean greater difficulties towards a sufficient supply of nourishing



food being able to be got, especially as there are still so many men remaining unemployed who are dependent either on the State, or in some cases on the pensions which follow disablement during service in the war.

I regret to say, however, that at Pinhoe Sanatorium I have found an increasing difficulty in keeping the beds, especially female, occupied, chiefly during the winter months. Although one feels very strongly that this ought not to be the case the fact remains that during the year it has been so. Among married women, who have families, the question of their being unable to make arrangements for their children being looked after for the time is frequently the reason given for their being unable to accept treatment when it has been offered to them, and their not caring for the idea of the children being sent into the Home in connection with the Heavitree Institution where they could generally be admitted and would, of course, be well looked after. Again, in the case of male patients although their beds have been, on the whole, less often empty, the chief reason for their refusing treatment has been, as stated in some of my previous reports, due to the fear of losing employment after having had Sanatorium treatment, or, if unemployed, making doubly certain that this will count materially against any chance they might otherwise have had of getting work later on.

This leads me to emphasize very strongly once again that in so many cases, both to prevent relapses occurring later, as well as to find occupation for these patients (so essential a part of treatment after they have left the Sanatorium) the development of the Colony System for these men, with all its possibilities, would seem to me to be the only real remedy, bringing with it the certainty of their getting work of a lasting nature, instead of too many of them drifting, as they do now, into a state of hopelessness, while all the time that this is so, they have the additional worries which are bound to follow owing to a steadily diminishing state of the family exchequer. I should like to see more of these Colonies started in different parts of the country—and the only way that I can see any chance of this being done, at any rate for patients living in cities the size of Exeter, would be through the combination of several Local Authorities with this object in view. I know of so many instances in which the fact that certain

among these patients have been able to get and continue doing regular work of a suitable nature has done more than anything else to prevent relapses occurring. There are, however, still remaining too many others who, less fortunate, through not having been able to find employment, only swell the numbers of those attending the Labour Bureau and in course of time—only too quickly very often—are forced to feel they will never work again. Some of them drift in a second or third time into the Sanatorium, more with the idea of once again getting back the weight which they have dropped since they were there previously, simply through worrying and not being to get a sufficiency of nourishment.

The “Semper Fidelis Company” to which reference has been made in several of my previous annual statements, and which has now been in existence for the last six years, is, I am glad to say, more than holding its own, and affords an example, on the spot, of the benefit which follows to their health of the men who belong to it, brought about entirely through their being able to feel that they have the opportunity of doing useful work which brings in a small addition to their pensions, while at the same time they remain under medical supervision. The success which this undertaking has met with, and of the likelihood of which I was inclined to be somewhat doubtful at first, has gone a long way towards making me realise the absolute necessity for many more patients being given a similar opportunity of maintaining such health as they have by regular work being found for them.

The assistance which has continued to be forthcoming, both in money and in kind, for ex-service patients not drawing any pensions from the United Services Fund and the British Legion, has been of the greatest help to me in enabling them to undergo Sanatorium treatment through their families being assisted, and I know that they, as well as myself, are very grateful to the Chairmen and Members of the Committees of these Bodies for this help.

Further funds must, however, be found, and no money can, I am confident, be better spent, or be looked on as a better investment, whether on the part of the State, or through private

philanthropy, than that which will ensure, through suitable and lasting work being forthcoming, the health of these men being maintained and their being able at the same time to provide their wives and families with sufficient food.

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### VENEREAL DISEASES.

Arrangements have been made with the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (with the approval of the Ministry of Health) jointly by the Devon County Council and the Council of the City of Exeter, for the treatment of these diseases at a special department of the Hospital.

The hours of attendance are as follows :—

Men        ...    Mondays, 3 to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Women    ...    Fridays, 3 to 5 p.m.

If in-patient treatment is necessary, special beds are available in the Hospital.

Unmarried female patients are admitted to St. Mary's Home, by arrangement with the authorities of the Home, for in-patients treatment by the Surgeon in charge of the Clinic.

The following figures relate to the City only :—Number of persons dealt with during the year at, or in connection with, the out-patient clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from :—

(a) Syphilis	...	...	44
(b) Soft Chancre	...	...	—
(c) Gonorrhœa	...	...	69
(d) Conditions other than Venereal	...	...	7
			<hr/> 120 <hr/>



Total attendances of patients during the year			
at the out-patient clinic	...	...	1,793

Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of			
treatment during the year	...	...	70

Examination of pathological material—

For detection of Spirochetes	...	...	5
For detection of Gonococci	...	...	108
For Wassermann Reaction	...	...	180

The following figures apply to the entire department and are not given separately for the City and County :—

Number of persons who ceased to attend the out-patient clinic—

(a) Before completing a course of treatment			48
(b) After one or more courses, but before completion of treatment	...	...	108
(c) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure	...	...	31

Number of persons transferred to other Treatment Centres after treatment	...	...	40
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Number of persons discharged from Out-patient Clinic after completion of treatment and observation	...	...	...	...	127
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Number of persons who, on 31-12-27, were under treatment or observation	...	...	206
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560

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Attendances are not limited to Clinics, but patients attend on other days and hours for interim treatment.

Notices are exhibited in all the Public Conveniences, setting out the facilities available for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases. Judging from the number of enquiries one has had originating from these notices, they are undoubtedly doing a good and valuable work.



On the commencement of work at the Clinic all the Medical Practitioners were informed of the arrangements for diagnosis, treatment and consultation by the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre. Every new Medical Practitioner is also informed. Nine Medical Practitioners in the City were supplied with free supplies of arsenobenzol compounds, and the number of doses of these compounds supplied to Medical Practitioners by the Council was 124.

The number of pathological specimens examined for Medical Practitioners is as follows :

For detection of Gonococci	...	...	28
For Wassermann reaction	...	...	94

It has been unnecessary to take any action under the Venereal Disease Act, 1917.

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## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

### ANTE-NATAL WORK.

The Ante-Natal Work in connection with the Infant Welfare Centres continues. During the year 157 expectant mothers attended, making 1137 attendances.

During the year the Health Visitors paid 812 visits to expectant mothers.

Ante-Natal work has now been undertaken by the District Nursing Association for cases attended by their nurses, and 530 mothers attended during the 12 months ended 31-3-28.

### BIRTHS.

1,074 notifications of live births were received during the year. 6·4 of the notifications were made by Medical Practitioners, 91·0 by Midwives, and 2·6 by relatives.

In 225 instances the Midwives summoned medical help for a variety of conditions affecting mother or child, while 31 other notifications in connection with still-births, artificial feeding, etc., were received from Midwives.

The amount paid by the Local Authority to Doctors under the Midwives' Act was £154 10s. 0d, of which £37 13s. 0d. was received back in part payment.

The conditions for which the Midwives summoned medical aid were as follows :—

Ruptured Perineum	...	...	59
Prolonged Labour	...	...	49
Abnormal Presentation	...	...	18
Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage	...	...	13
Post Partum Hæmorrhage	...	...	4
Premature Labour	...	...	2
Adherent Placenta	...	...	3
Albuminuria	...	...	11
Threatened Miscarriage	...	...	5
Various	...	...	1
Condition of Mother	...	...	28
Condition of Baby	...	...	32
			<hr/>
			225
			<hr/>

#### PUERPERAL SEPSIS.

This is dealt with under the heading of Notifiable Diseases.

#### MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA, ETC.

These are dealt with under the heading of Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.

#### STILL-BIRTHS.

The number of still-births that occurred during the year was 42, of which 17 were attended by Midwives and 25 by Doctors. 17 were first pregnancies and 25 were subsequent pregnancies. None were illegitimate. Of this number, 6 appear, from information obtained, not to have passed the 28th week of pregnancy, and therefore were not really stillbirths.

Of the 36 rightly notified as still-births—

8 were macerated, showing they died at some period anterior to the birth, and of this number—

2 were due to accident or shock to mother.

3 were due to bad general health and poor physique of mother.

2 were due to malformation of foetus.

There was 1 case in which no cause could be assigned.

Of the non-macerated infants, i.e., those who had not died previous to the time of birth—

8 were premature births

8 were connected with instrumental labour

1 was connected with difficulty at confinement (twins)

3 were abnormal presentations

5 were due to ill-health of mother

1 was due to malformation

and there were two cases in which no cause could be assigned.

#### HOME VISITS UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS.

During the year the Health Visitors paid 989 first visits and 7,028 subsequent visits to children under the age of 12 months, and 3,862 visits to children between the ages of 12 months and 5 years.

#### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

During the year there were recorded at the Centres 15,656 attendances of children, being an increase of 3,199 over the previous year.

#### PROVISIONS OF MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Council is responsible for the issue of fresh and dried milk. During the financial year 1927-28 the cost of milk issued either free or at half-cost was £791 14s. 3d. In respect of this sum £31 0s. 5d. was received from the mothers in part payment. Net cost, £760 13s. 10d., being an increase of £171 11s. 3d. over the previous year.



The scale approved by the City Council for the issue of milk is as follows :—

No. in Family.	Free of cost.	At half cost price.
	Income not exceeding per head, less rent.	Income not exceeding per head, less rent.
1 or 2	9/-	10/-
3	8/-	9/-
4	7/-	8/-
5 or more	5/6	7/-

#### MATERNITY HOME.

46 cases were admitted to the Home by the City Council at a cost of 272 8s. 0d., of which £41 0s. 0d. was received back in part payment. Net cost £231 8s. 0d., plus subsidy of £50, being an average of £6 2s. 4d. per case.

#### MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES ACT, 1926.

The above Act, which came into force on 1-1-27, provides for the registration of Maternity Homes.

There are at present seven registered under this Act, including the Maternity Home, St. Olaves Home, St. Mary's Home.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT.

Arrangements have been made, with the approval of the Ministry and with the consent of the Education Committee, for dental treatment and supply of dentures for expectant and nursing mothers by the School Dentist.

#### SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1927.

No. of Patients seen	...	...	42
No. of visits paid by Patients	...	...	229
No. of administrations of Gas	...	...	46
No. of teeth extracted under Gas	...	...	318
No. of teeth extracted otherwise	...	...	3
No. of Dentures fitted	...	...	47
No. of teeth replaced	...	...	419



OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.				Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Still under treatment	Deaths	Removed from District
	Notified	Treated.								
		At Eye Infirmary	At Poor Law Infirmary	Privately						
	6	4	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	—

Under the Midwives Rules a Midwife has to notify any discharge from the eye. 19 notifications of discharging eye were received, but these would not be all cases of true Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Of this number 6 were subsequently notified by Medical Practitioners, and therefore may be regarded as the correct return of the number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. All 6 cases were treated at the Eye Infirmary, and in no case was the vision left in an impaired condition. In the course of time this measure should lead to a considerable reduction in the number of blind persons.

**EXETER ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**

## REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.

I have the honour to present the following Report of the work of the Exeter Isolation Hospital during the year :—

The accommodation consists of 88 adult beds, arranged in blocks as follows :

One block of 24 beds for Scarlet Fever.

One block of 14 beds for Diphtheria.

One block of 10 beds for Enteric Fever, and used at present for Tubercular cases.

One block of 20 beds, interchangeable as required.

One block of 8 beds for observation cases.

One block of 12 beds, provided by the Ministry of Pensions and Red Cross Society for the accommodation of 12 Tubercular ex-soldiers or sailors.

The Hospital has a good administrative block, with ample accommodation for extension of Staff, and it is recognised that in case of necessity the number of beds can be considerably increased, without detriment to the efficient working of the wards and the well-being of the patients. The whole is of modern construction and design, and is an Institution far above the average.

At present, contracts for the admission of patients exist with the following Local Authorities and other Public Bodies :—

*Borough Council—*

Okehampton.

*Urban District Councils—*

Holsworthy.  
Ottery St. Mary.  
Budleigh Salterton.  
Dawlish.  
Seaton.  
Exmouth.  
Crediton.  
Axminster.  
Sidmouth.

*Rural District Councils—*

Newton Abbot.  
Honiton.  
Axminster.  
Crediton.  
St. Thomas,  
Okehampton.  
South Molton.

*Town Council—*

Honiton.

Exeter Port Sanitary Authority.  
Kelly College, Tavistock.  
Secretary of State for War.  
Prison Authorities, Princetown.

Excluding tubercular cases, which are dealt with under a separate heading, at the beginning of the year 71 cases remained under treatment, 17 of whom were from the County. 197 cases were admitted during the year, 65 of these coming from the County and 132 from the City ; and at the end of the year 1927, 18 cases were under treatment, of whom 11 were from the County and 7 from the City.

The following table shows the number of cases treated at the Exeter Isolation Hospital during the past ten years :—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>County.</i>	<i>City.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1918	Total treated at Isolation Hospital	40	72	112
1919	„ „	61	68	129
1920	„ „	91	108	199
1921	„ „	90	190	280
1922	„ „	126	152	278
1923	„ „	119	98	217
1924	„ „	108	99	207
1925	„ „	112	95	207
1926	„ „	89	231	320
1927	„ „	82	186	268
Average number of cases admitted for the ten years ...		91	130	221

The following was the mortality amongst the 268 cases :—

	<i>County.</i>	<i>City.</i>
From Scarlet Fever...	0	0
From Diphtheria ...	1	0
From Enteric Fever	2	0

This gives a death rate of 1·12 per 100 cases treated.

The average duration of each patient's stay in the Isolation Hospital was 38·9 days.

	<i>Days.</i>
Against in 1918 ...	36
„ 1919 ...	44
„ 1920 ...	35
„ 1921 ...	43
„ 1922 ...	38
„ 1923 ...	39
„ 1924 ...	42
„ 1925 ...	43
„ 1926 ...	45
„ 1927 ...	38
Average stay for the 10 years ...	40

The average number of fever patients per day was 27·1.



DISEASE.	Cases remaining under treatment from previous year.	Cases admitted during the year.	Cases discharged cured during the year.	Deaths.	Cases remaining under treatment at the end of the year.	Remarks.
Diphtheria ...	8	38	38	1	7	This gives a mortality of 2·7 per 100 cases. In one case tracheotomy was necessary.
Scarlet Fever ...	61	130	180	—	11	
Measles ...	—	4	4	—	—	
Septic Throat ...	—	1	1	—	—	
Typhoid Fever ...	1	11	10	2	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	1	—	1	—	This case was sent in as enteric fever, but the diagnosis was changed on admission to encephalitis lethargica.
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	1	8	9	—	—	
Chicken Pox ...	—	1	1	—	—	
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	—	—	

The Observation Block has again been of great advantage in the efficient working of the Institution, and has afforded satisfactory isolation for several diseases at the same time, although in close contact, and it gives me great satisfaction to report that no cases of cross-infection arose in this block.

During the financial year 1927-1928, a total of £1,421 17s.7d. was received for the treatment of infectious disease, being £995 8s. 11d. from outside Authorities and £426 8s. 8d. from City patients.

I should like to emphasize the good work done by the Matron, Nurses, and Domestic Staff of the Hospital. All have given loyal and efficient service, and have done their utmost to make the work of the Institution the success which it has been during the past year.

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#### SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

The accommodation remains the same, viz. 12 beds. The interior has been cleaned, window blinds fixed, stoves for heating installed, and oil lamps provided, and the Institution is ready at any time for the reception of patients.

It is curious that, concurrent with the occurrence of Smallpox in many parts of the Country, we have been visited in Exeter by a considerable epidemic of Chicken Pox, the differentiate diagnosis between Chicken Pox and Smallpox has given rise to some anxiety with a large amount of additional work, but so far there has been no case of Smallpox, and the Institution has not been needed.

#### MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The Supervision of Mental Defectives is in the hands of a Statutory Committee appointed by the City Council, composed partly by Members of the Council and partly by co-opted Members. The number placed on the Register since the passing of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, is 171. Of these 32 have

died, 20 left the City, and 9 have been transferred to the Mental Hospital, leaving 110 at present on the Register. These are placed as follows :—

In Certified Institutions	...	...	40
In Non-Certified Institutions	...	...	7

The remaining 63 are well cared for in their own homes and visited from time to time by my staff in order to ascertain if these satisfactory conditions are maintained. The total expenditure for the financial year 1926-7 was £1,593 19s. 7d., the bulk of which is for maintenance of patients in Institutions, the amount being £1,471 11s. 6d.

There is, at present, an insuperable difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation for multiple defectives and certain other classes of defectives. Negotiations are proceeding between the County Council, the Local Authorities at Starcross Institution and the City Council, with a view to obtaining additional accommodation for all classes of mental defectives in the Starcross Institution, but at the present time no definite decision has been reached but the negotiations are continuing.

#### SUPERANNUATION.

During the year, 90 persons were medically examined under the superannuation arrangements.

Although the persons examined were 90, the actual examinations made were many more, as it is impossible in every case to express an opinion as to the desirability of Superannuation, after but one examination.





